

2011-12 FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATION GUIDE

Sacramento State Financial Aid Office
6000 J Street, Lassen Hall 1006, Sacramento, CA 95819-6044
www.csus.edu/faid

THE AWARD NOTIFICATION

The Award Notification is our offer of financial aid. You will receive a revised notification every time your award is adjusted (increased, decreased, or cancelled). *Awards may be cancelled if you fail to respond to the Award Notification within two weeks.*

Before declining an award, please be advised that not all aid can be restored later. Award offers are contingent upon continued eligibility and availability of funding from program sources.

If you receive additional aid, such as scholarships, stipends, tuition fees paid by third party contract, waivers, etc., not listed on your Award Notification, you must inform the Financial Aid Office in writing. These additional sources of aid must be counted as a resource which may require reduction of other awards.

Students cannot receive financial aid at two different campuses during the same semester.

FINANCIAL AID ENROLLMENT STATUS

Represents the number of units on which your financial aid is based. Courses taken for audit (AU) do not count toward enrollment for financial aid. You must be enrolled at least half-time to remain eligible for most financial aid programs.

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Full-time:	12 units	8 units
¾ time:	9-11 units	6-7 units
½ time:	6-8 units	4-5 units
< ½ time:	1-5 units	1-3 units

For retroactive payments (aid paid for a prior term in the award year), courses with grades of W and WU will not count toward your enrollment status.

CENSUS

Your aid may be adjusted to the number of units that you have on the Census date (about 4 weeks after the semester begins). If you have dropped units, you will have to repay any funds for which you are no longer eligible. If you have added units, you may become eligible for additional aid. No adjustments of aid will be made after the Census date.

SPRING ONLY AWARDS

Due to limited funding, priority awarding is given to students who will enroll in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

Priority awarding of financial aid is given to students who file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 2 priority deadline and submit all documentation within two weeks of the date of our request for additional information.

Financial aid funds are not available to meet the total financial need of all students, but our office strives to make it possible for you to afford to attend Sacramento State.

Undergraduate students are considered for all financial aid programs.

Teaching credential students are considered for State University Grant, Perkins Loans, Federal Work Study, Direct Loans, and TEACH Grants (*can turn into Unsubsidized Loan with accrued interest*). Loan limits are equivalent to those for seniors. Students working towards their first teaching credential may be eligible for Pell Grant if they are enrolled in at least 6 units of required teaching credential courses.

Classified and conditionally classified graduates are considered for State University Grant, Perkins Loans, Nursing Loans, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loans.

Unclassified graduates who are working toward admission into an eligible program are considered for State University Grant and Direct Loans for a period of up to 12 months (two consecutive semesters) one time only. See a counselor for assistance.

Second bachelor's, second master's, and second credential students are not eligible to receive financial aid without an approved Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal. If an appeal is approved, these students are considered for State University Grant, Perkins Loans, Nursing Loans, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loans.

College of Continuing Education (CCE) students who are taking pre-approved courses require special handling. You must identify yourself to the Financial Aid Office as a student in an eligible CCE program to receive information on your financial aid process. *NOTE: Regular students taking Summer courses through CCE are not considered CCE students for financial aid purposes.*

FINANCIAL AID TERMS

Financial Aid Budget (also known as Cost of Attendance or COA): the actual amount of tuition fees and standard allowances for books & supplies, food & housing, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses. The housing allowance is based upon your living arrangements while enrolled at Sac State. The following chart is an estimate of the cost of attendance as a full-time student. It may not represent your actual expenditures for these items.

ALLOWANCE	PARENTS	ON-CAMPUS	OFF-CAMPUS
<u>Tuition Fees (may change)</u>	\$6,572	\$6,572	\$6,572
<u>Food & Housing</u>	\$4,348	\$11,518	\$11,970
<u>Books & Supplies</u>	\$1,746	\$1,746	\$1,746
<u>Transportation</u>	\$1,334	\$1,152	\$1,294
<u>Misc. Personal</u>	\$2,720	\$2,438	\$2,740
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$16,720	\$23,426	\$24,322

NOTE: Graduate students add \$1266 for graduate tuition fees; teaching credential students add \$876. State-support MBA students add \$254 per unit for professional program fee. Non-resident students add \$372 per unit for non-resident tuition fees. The CSU makes every effort to keep student costs to a minimum. Tuition fees listed in published schedules or student accounts may need to be increased when public funding is inadequate. Therefore, the CSU must reserve the right, even after initial fee payments are made, to increase or modify any listed fees, without notice, until the date when instruction for a particular semester or quarter has begun. All CSU listed fees should be regarded as estimates that are subject to change upon approval by The Board of Trustees.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): the federally-determined amount that you and your family are expected to contribute toward the cost of your education based on the information provided on the FAFSA.

Financial Need: the student budget minus the EFC minus other resources which determines eligibility for need-based aid.

Remaining Need: the financial need that has not been met by the financial aid award.

GRANTS

Students graduating at the end of any semester are ineligible for undergraduate financial aid in subsequent semesters.

Federal Pell Grant is restricted to undergraduates and students pursuing their first non-degree teaching credential.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is restricted to undergraduate students with extreme financial need.

State University Grant (SUG) is a program to help pay tuition fees restricted to California residents who are not receiving funding from another aid program designed for tuition fees.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Grant is restricted to undergraduate California residents who were admitted through EOP.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant (BIA) is restricted to students awarded by the BIA.

Cal Grant is restricted to undergraduate California residents who have been determined to be eligible

by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). You must inform the Financial Aid Office in writing if you become ineligible to receive Cal Grant after it has been awarded to you.

TEACH Grant is restricted to students in the teacher credential program and requires 4 years of specific teaching service, **otherwise it converts to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan with accrued interest.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Institutional Scholarships are awarded by the University Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from mid-January to mid-March.

Departmental Scholarships are awarded by the respective campus departments. See your department for applications and deadlines.

Community Scholarships are awarded by off-campus donors and are shown as estimates until the funds have been received. If the amount of your estimated scholarship is not equal to the total of all of your unpaid scholarships, please see the Scholarship Office in Lassen Hall 1006.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)

Students are instructed on how to obtain a FWS job to earn the award and receive payments. These funds are not part of the weekly financial aid disbursement.

LOANS

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan is a long term, fixed interest rate loan (3.4% for undergraduate loans disbursed after July 1, 2011 and before July 1, 2012; 6.8% for graduates) based on financial need. Repayment begins six months after graduation or enrollment falls below half-time. The government pays interest during in-school, grace and deferment periods.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan is a long term, fixed interest rate loan (6.8%) not based on financial need. Repayment begins six months after graduation or enrollment falls below half-time. Interest begins to accrue at the time of disbursement, and we recommend students make interest payments while in school. Unpaid interest will be added to the principal amount of the loan at repayment.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans is a long term, fixed interest rate (7.9%) loan for graduate students for credit worthy applicants.

Federal Direct Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is a long term, fixed interest rate loan at 7.9% for parents of dependent students. Parents must complete a Parent Loan Request Form. If your parent is denied the PLUS loan because of an adverse credit history, you may be considered for additional unsubsidized loan eligibility by request.

Requirements for Federal Direct Loans:

All loan borrowers must complete a Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete Entrance Loan Counseling. Students will be given instructions on how to complete these requirements.

Nursing Student Loan (NSL) is a long-term, low-interest (5%) loan awarded to students with financial need who have been formally admitted into the clinical nursing major. Repayment begins nine months after graduation or after you cease to attend at least half-time. Students under the age of 18 are required to have a co-signer.

Federal Perkins Loan is a long-term, low-interest (5%) loan offered to students who have financial need. Repayment begins nine months after you graduate or cease to attend at least half-time.

Requirements for Nursing and Perkins Loans:

Borrowers must complete entrance loan counseling and a master promissory note. Refer to the instructions on your My Sac State To Do list.

Requirements for Goethe and Lockhart Loans:

Students need to meet with a counselor for further instructions on completing the promissory note with the Student Financial Services Center.

Alternative (Private) Loans are higher cost loans for credit worthy students to help meet educational expenses that are not covered by the financial aid award. We strongly encourage you to seek out federal loans before alternative loans. See a Financial Aid Counselor for more information.

ANNUAL DIRECT LOAN LIMITS

	Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$6,000
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,000
Junior/Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,000
Teach. Cred.	\$5,500	\$0	\$7,000
Graduate	\$8,500	n/a	\$12,000

LIFETIME DIRECT LOAN LIMITS

	Dependent	Independent (Max Subsidized)
Undergraduate	\$31,000	\$57,500 (\$23,000)
Graduate*	n/a	\$138,500 (\$65,500)

* Includes loans received for undergraduate study.

The actual amount you receive may be less than the maximum annual amounts shown above, depending on your student budget and other resources.

CHECK DISBURSEMENT

All obligations owed to the University (tuition fees, housing, short term loans, etc.) may be automatically deducted from your financial aid. Normally there are no remaining funds sent to you until your debts have been fully paid regardless of whether you are on a payment plan.

Get your funds faster by signing up for eRefund with the Student Financial Services Center at www.csus.edu/sfsc/eRefund.pdf. Students not enrolled in eRefund will have paper checks mailed to the local mailing address in their My Sac State Student Center. Student loan borrowers have 120 days to return their un-cashed loan check before loan fees will be assessed.

With the exception of holidays and campus closures, financial aid is disbursed on a weekly basis beginning the first day of each semester. Please note the following exceptions to the normal disbursement schedule:

- Pell Grants and TEACH Grants for credential students will be disbursed after the Census date.

WITHDRAWALS

If you are planning on withdrawing, we strongly encourage you to meet with a financial aid counselor to discuss repayment of aid and the impact it may have on future aid eligibility and maintaining the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards.

Students who withdraw from all courses prior to the 60 percent point of the term may have to repay a portion of their financial aid funds to required aid programs based on the number of days remaining in the term. Students seeking a tentative repayment amount may submit a written request to the Financial Aid Office. A response will be sent within 10 working days.

Students who receive a 0.00 GPA as a result of receiving W or WU grades are considered unofficial withdrawals. Repayment/refunds will be calculated based on attendance through 50 percent of the semester or the last day of documented attendance.

OVERAWARDS

Federal and state regulations do not allow students to receive aid which exceeds their financial eligibility. An overaward may occur in the following situations:

- change in budget, housing status, resident status, or academic career
- unreported aid from outside resources (scholarships, grants, stipends, third party tuition fee payments, aid received at other schools, etc.)
- an increase in family contribution as a result of corrections made to the Student Aid Report (SAR)
- changes in enrollment status
- human error in calculation or data entry of an award(s)
- aid awarded after initial award notification

Students are required to repay all assistance for which they are determined to be ineligible.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The University is required to uniformly measure progress toward a degree/credential objective for all financial aid recipients regardless of whether they have previously received financial aid. All financial aid recipients are required to sign a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards contract as part of the application process.

TUITION FEE DEFERMENT

You are given a temporary tuition fee deferment in the Fall if you filed a FAFSA with Sac State and submit all documents by June 1. In the Spring semester, you are given a temporary tuition fee deferment if you have a Spring financial aid award.

You are responsible for paying tuition fees by the due dates. You must read your My Sac State messages for further information.

SUMMER AID

A separate online application is required for Summer financial aid and will be available on the financial aid web site around April.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)

You must have a federal PIN to access financial aid information and resources such as filing the FAFSA and completing the Entrance Loan Counseling and MPN requirements. Keep your PIN private and do not share your PIN. The federal PIN is issued by the U.S. Department of Education and can be requested on their web site at www.pin.ed.gov.

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENT HOLDS

Disbursement holds are term-specific, meaning holds from previous and future semesters do not affect the current semester. Financial aid holds do not affect registration. You must check your My Sac State Student Center for current disbursement holds after registering for classes and take necessary action to clear the holds.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A drop-box is located in the lobby of Lassen Hall to submit documents. You must include your name and student ID on all documents.

You must inform the Financial Aid Office on My Sac State or in writing if you will enroll in fewer than 12 units per semester.

You must inform the Financial Aid Office in writing if your living arrangements change from what was reported on the FAFSA.

You are required to repay all assistance for which you are determined to be ineligible.

When visiting the Financial Aid Office, you must be prepared to show photo identification.

QUESTIONS?

Visit our website at www.csus.edu/faid to view our Financial Aid TV available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us at (916) 278-6554 or e-mail us at finaid@csus.edu. General advising is provided at the front counter in Lassen 1006 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Counselors are available on a drop-in basis on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:30 am and from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Office hours will change for the Summer, so check our website to view current office hours.

This guide does not cover every award or situation. Check your My Sac State and our website for updates and other important information.